

## **MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING**

State Operations Center  
7285 Parsons Drive, Dimondale  
February 16, 2007

### **Minutes**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and reiterated the role of the Commission, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **ROLL CALL**

The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

#### **GATEKEEPER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Chairperson Kennedy stated that since 1987 Consumers Energy has sponsored the Gatekeeper Program. Chairperson Kennedy announced that the Commission on Services to the Aging was pleased to have Consumers Energy present today to help honor Mr. Christopher Harbert, recipient of the 2006 Gatekeeper of the Year award. Chairperson Kennedy noted that Mr. Harbert went above and beyond the call of duty.

Each month OSA selects one Consumers Energy employee as Gatekeeper-of-the-Month based on nominations received by the company. One of the monthly winners is then honored as Gatekeeper of the Year. Chairperson Kennedy stated the partnership with Consumers Energy has now extended beyond OSA to area agencies and service providers. Chairperson Kennedy thanked Consumers Energy on behalf of the Commission on Services to the Aging for their commitment to the Gatekeeper Program.

Chairperson Kennedy introduced Susan Swan, Vice-President, Customer Operations Department. Ms. Swan introduced the Consumer Energy employees present and gave a brief history of what earned Mr. Harbert the 2006 Gatekeeper of the Year award. Ms. Swan also noted that to date, there have been a total of 4,765 referrals from the Gatekeeper Program. Ms. Swan introduced Mr. Andrew Radvansky, Customer Service Department Manager who presented Mr. Harbert with a check from Consumers Energy for his role in helping others.

Chairperson Kennedy presented Mr. Harbert with a letter from the Governor, along with a certificate of appreciation. Director Gire presented Mr. Harbert with a plaque for his outstanding performance, commitment, and dedication for his work in making a difference in the lives of Michigan seniors.

#### **COMMISSION UPDATE**

Chairperson Kennedy announced that Commissioner Annette Guilfoyle from Grand Rapids has resigned, effective immediately. Commissioner Guilfoyle recently accepted the position of Executive Director for the West Michigan Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the demands associated with this position has made it difficult for Commissioner Guilfoyle to fulfill her responsibilities to the Commission. On behalf of the Commission, Chairperson Kennedy thanked Commissioner Guilfoyle for her commitment and work on behalf of Michigan's older adults. Chairperson Kennedy stated that her experience and insight has contributed greatly to the work of the Commission, OSA and the aging network in Michigan.

Chairperson Kennedy reported the passing of former Commissioner Alberta Wilburn, and extended the Commission's deepest regrets and sympathies to the Wilburn family.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Owen Bieber, Cheryl Bollinger, Rose Gill, Jerutha Kennedy, Chun-Keung Leung, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Thomas Rau, Amne Talab, Ramesh Verma, William Walters IV, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)**

Albert Lewis

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)**

None

**OSA STAF PRESENT**

Bonnie Graham, Cindy Albrecht, David Dekker, Dan Doezema, Sharon Gire, Laura McMurtry, Sally Steiner, Holliace Spencer, and Julia Thomas

**VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT**

Patty Soave, Christopher Harbert, Kate Harbert, Susan Swan, Fordine Williams, Andrew Radvansky, Debbie Harmon, Brian VandenBerg, Linda Taylor, Susan Suchecki, Anne Noble, and Harry Sabourin

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Pawelski made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Commissioner Walters made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2007, meeting. Commissioner Bollinger seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

**INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Gire stated that her report will cover OSA's budget along with State of Michigan's budget. Director Gire reviewed the Governor's proposals for 2007 and 2008 and asked the Commission to become advocates for the Governor's proposals. A brief discussion followed.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Change in Grantee for Otsego Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)**

Julia Thomas, OSA staff, requested approval for a change in the grantee for the RSVP serving Otsego County from Gaylord Community Schools to the United Way of Otsego County. Ms. Thomas stated that on September 19, 2006, OSA was formally notified that Gaylord Community Schools will relinquish sponsorship of the RSVP on January 31, 2007.

Ms. Thomas stated the Corporation for National and Community Service, in conjunction with OSA, gave public notice about the search for a new sponsor on October 12, 2006. An informational meeting for potential sponsors of the program was conducted on November

2, 2006. The application from United Way of Otsego County was the only application submitted.

Ms. Thomas noted that with the approval of the change she would also like approval to award the balance of the current FY 2007 state grant of \$21,548 from Gaylord Community Schools to the United Way of Otsego County. The actual amount of the 2007 grant award will be determined upon submission of a final financial status report from the school district.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Bieber to approve the change in grantee for the RSVP serving Otsego County from Gaylord Community Schools to the United Way of Otsego County, along with the transfer of the remaining balance of the FY 2007 grant. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

#### **Grantee Merger for Muskegon/Newaygo Foster Grandparent (FGP) and Senior Companion (SCP) Programs**

Julia Thomas, OSA staff, requested the Commission's approval for a change in the grantee for the Foster Grandparent and the Senior Companion Programs serving Muskegon and Newaygo Counties. The change is due to an organizational merger between Catholic Human Development Outreach and Catholic Social Services – Muskegon.

Ms. Thomas stated that OSA was notified of the merger on December 18, 2006. As a result, the FGP and SCP are now part of the regional service area of Catholic Social Services – Muskegon, which in turn is under the Diocesan Office of Catholic Charities of West Michigan.

Ms. Thomas noted that while the name of the sponsor has changed, the consolidation of the entities will have no impact on the delivery of services for the two programs. If Catholic Social Services – Muskegon is approved as the new grantee, OSA is also seeking approval to award the balance of the current FY 2007 state grant (\$146,951 to FGP and \$49,403 to SCP) from Catholic Human Development Outreach to Catholic Social Services – Muskegon. Ms. Thomas stated the actual amount of the 2007 grant award would be determined upon submission of a final financial status report from Catholic Human Development Outreach.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve Catholic Social Services – Muskegon as sponsor of the Muskegon/Newaygo Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs with transfer of the balance of FY 2007 state grant balance awarded to Catholic Human Development Outreach. Commissioner Bieber seconded the motion. The Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

#### **Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Reallocations for Program Year (PY) 2006-07**

Laura McMurtry, OSA staff, requested Commission approval of the PY 2006-07 SCSEP Reprogramming Allocations. OSA was informed by Region IV Area Agency on Aging (AAA) the organization would be returning unexpended SCSEP funds for reprogramming to other SCSEP grantees. Ms. McMurtry stated that SCSEP funds cannot be carried over from year-to-year so the following subgrantees expressed an interest in receiving the funds

returned from Region IV AAA to serve additional participants: DAAA, Macomb/St. Clair Michigan\*Works!, Region 5 AAA, and Region 8 AAA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the SCSEP Reallocations for PY 2006-07. Commissioner Walters seconded the motion. Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed regarding SCSEP budget, federal formula, flexibility of funds, and other factors that result in an under-expenditure of funds in SCSEP.

**Community for a Lifetime Review Panel Recommendations (three items)**

Dan Doezenia, OSA staff, stated that on February 6, 2007 the Community for a Lifetime Review Panel met to review the two community assessment applications submitted by Otsego County and North Ottawa County. The review panel also discussed various forms of recognition that might be considered once the Commission approves a community's application for recognition. The following recommendations resulted from the meeting:

**Otsego County Elder Friendly Community Leadership Team Application for 2007,  
Community for a Lifetime Recognition of Conducting a Community Assessment – City of  
Gaylord**

Mr. Doezenia stated the panel reviewed the Otsego County Elder Friendly Community Leadership Team application for recognition of their elder-friendly community assessment for the City of Gaylord. Mr. Doezenia stated the assessment team used the original Michigan Community for a Lifetime (CFL) Assessment developed by MSU Extension and served as a pilot community for this process. The strengths of the Gaylord assessment were acknowledged in the memorandum prepared by the review panel for the Commission. Mr. Doezenia requested the Otsego County Elder Friendly Community Leadership Team be approved for recognition of their community assessment of the City of Gaylord.

A motion was made by Commissioner Newport to approve the Community for a Lifetime recognition recommendation for the City of Gaylord and seconded by Commissioner Walters. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

A brief discussion followed.

**North West Ottawa County Elder Friendly Community Task Force Application for 2007,  
Community for a Lifetime Recognition of Conducting a Community Assessment – North  
West Ottawa County**

Mr. Doezenia stated that the panel reviewed the North West Ottawa County Elder Friendly Community Task Force application for recognition of their elder-friendly community assessment of North West Ottawa County (City of Grand Haven, Grand Haven Township, Spring Lake Village, Spring Lake Township and Ferrysburg). Mr. Doezenia stated the assessment incorporated five original assessments of these communities into one combined assessment application for the entire North West Ottawa County.

Mr. Doezenia stated the assessment team used the original Michigan Community for a Lifetime (CFL) Assessment developed by MSU Extension and served as a pilot community for this process. The strengths of the North West Ottawa County assessment were

acknowledged in the memorandum prepared by the review panel for the Commission. Mr. Doezenia also stated the assessment team was comprised of an “all senior task force”, who had demonstrated an interest in the Community for a Lifetime process. The assessment covered all 10 sections of the livability categories as set forth in the CFL Assessment.

Mr. Doezenia requested the North West Ottawa County Elder Friendly Community Task Force be approved for recognition of their community assessment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the Community for a Lifetime recognition recommendation for North West Ottawa County and seconded by Commissioner Newport. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

A brief discussion followed.

#### Michigan Community for a Lifetime Forms of Recognition

Mr. Doezenia reviewed the review panel’s suggestions on Community for a Lifetime forms of recognition with the Commission. The Commission requested that the Governor’s website be added to the list of recognition activities.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the Michigan Community for a Lifetime Forms of Recognition and seconded by Commissioner Bollinger. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

### **INFORMATION AND COMMENTS**

#### State Advisory Council (SAC) Report

Commissioner Walters presented the report of the February 8, 2007 meeting of the SAC to the Commission. Commissioner Walters noted the March SAC meeting has been rescheduled to August 2, 2007. Ms. Steiner explained the rationale for this decision stating winter weather had affected attendance at several meetings and the extension of the timeframe in which a report from the SAC would be presented to the Commission.

Ms. Steiner noted that SAC member, Vincente Castellanos, gave an outstanding presentation on different energy saving strategies. Other speakers included Jane Church from the Long Term Care Office of Supports and Services regarding the “Own Your Future” campaign, Dave Ellens from Evergreen Commons, and Director Sharon Gire.

Ms. Steiner also stated the SAC would be presenting a progress report on their key ideas regarding senior centers and aging services at the annual joint meeting of the Commission and State Advisory Council in April.

#### Other

Commissioner Rau noted that many of the Commissioners attended the February 14 AAA Legislative Day and found it to be very enlightening.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on March 16, 2007 at the Macomb Intermediate School District (ISD), 44001 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. In conjunction with the Commission meeting, a state

plan public hearing will be held from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Our thanks to Commissioner Wilson for making the meeting and public hearing at Macomb ISD a reality.

The March 8, 2007 State Advisory Council has been cancelled and a make-up meeting has been scheduled for August 2, 2007. The next scheduled meeting will be held on April 20, 2007, as a joint meeting with the Commission. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn West, Lansing.

The strategic planning session scheduled for today has been cancelled, but will be rescheduled for later this year.

**ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Verma and seconded by Commissioner Rau. Commissioner Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.